NUMB. XCIX.

The SPECTATOR.

——Turpi ſecernis Honeſtum. Hor.

Saturday, June 23. 1711.

THE Club, of which I have often declared my ſelf a Member, were laſt Night engaged in a Diſcourſe upon that which paſſes for the chief Point of Honour among Men and Women, and ſtarted a great many Queſtions upon the Subject which I thought were not unnew. I ſhall therefore methodize the ſeveral Reflections that aroſe upon this Occaſion, and preſent my Reader with them for the Speculation of the Day; after having premiſed, that if there is any thing in this Paper which ſeems to differ with the Judgment of *Thurſday*'s, the Reader will conſider it as the Sentiments of the Club, and the other as my own private Thoughts, or rather thoſe of *Hamond*.

The great Point of Honour in Men is Courage, and in Women Chaſtity. If a Man loſes his Honour in one Rencounter it is not impoſſible for him to regain it in another; a Slip in a Woman's Honour is irrecoverable. I can give no Reaſon for placing the Point of Honour to theſe two Qualities, unleſs it be that each Sex ſets the greateſt Value upon the Qualification which renders them the moſt conſiderable in the Eyes of the contrary Sex. Had Honour been choſen for themſelves, without regard to the Inclinations of the fair Sex, I ſhould believe the Choice would have fallen on Wiſdom or Virtue; or had the Women determined their own point of Honour, it is probable that Wit or Good-Nature would have carried it againſt Chaſtity.

Nothing recommends a Man more to the Female Sex than Courage; whether it be that they are pleaſed to ſee one who is a Terror to others fall like a Slave at their Feet, or that this Quality ſupplies their own principal Defect, in guarding them from Inſults and avenging their Quarrels, or that Courage is a natural Indication of a ſtrong and healthy Conſtitution. On the other ſide, nothing makes a Woman more eſteemed than Chaſtity, whether it be that we always value thoſe moſt who are hardeſt to come at, or that nothing beſides Chaſtity, with its Collateral Attendants, Truth, Fidelity and Conſtancy, gives the Man a Property in the Perſon he loves, and conſequently endears her to him above all things.

I am very much pleaſed with a Paſſage in the Inſcription on a Monument erected in *Weſtminſter* Abby to the late Duke and Dutcheſs of *Newcaſtle*. 'Her Name was *Margaret Lucas*, youngeſt Siſter to the Lord *Lucas* of *Colcheſter*; *a noble Family, for all the Brothers were valiant, and all the Siſters virtuous.*

In Books of Chivalry, where the Point of Honour is ſtrained to Madneſs, the whole Story runs on Chaſtity and Courage. The Damſel is mounted on a white Palfrey, as an Emblem of her Innocence; and, to avoid Scandal, muſt have a Dwarf for her Page. She is not to think of a Man 'till ſome Misfortune has brought a Knight-Errant to her Relief. The Knight falls in Love, and did not Gratitude reſtrain her from murdering her Deliverer, would die at her Feet by her Diſdain. However he muſt waſte many Years in the Deſart before her Virgin Heart can think of a Surrender. The Knight goes off, attacks every thing he meets that is bigger and ſtronger than himſelf, ſeeks all Opportunities of being knock'd on the Head, and after ſeven Years rambling returns to his Miſtreſs, whoſe Chaſtity has been attacked in the mean time by Gyants and Tyrants, and undergone as many Tryals as her Lover's Valour.

In *Spain*, where there are ſtill great Remains of this Romantick Humour, it is a tranſporting Favour for a Lady to caſt an accidental Glance on her Lover from a Window, tho' it be two or three Stories high; as it is uſual for the Lover to aſſert his Paſſion for his Miſtreſs in ſingle Combat with a mad Bull.

The great Violation of the Point of Honour from Man to Man is giving the Lie. One may tell another he Whores, Drinks, Blaſphemes, and it may paſs unreſented, but to ſay he Lies, tho' but in Jeſt, is an Affront that nothing but Blood can expiate. The Reaſon

Reaſon perhaps may be, becauſe no other Vice implies a want of Courage ſo much as the making of a Lie: And therefore telling a Man he Lies, is touching him in the moſt ſenſible part of Honour, and indirectly calling him a Coward.

The placing the Point of Honour in this falſe kind of Courage, has given Occaſion to the very Refuſe of Mankind, who have neither Virtue nor common Senſe, to ſet up for Men of Honour. An *Engliſh* Peer, who has not been long dead, uſed to tell a pleaſant Story of a *French* Gentleman that viſited him early one Morning at *Paris*, and after great Profeſſions of Reſpect, let him know that he had it in his Power to oblige him, which in ſhort amounted to this, that he believed he could tell his Lordſhip the Perſon's Name who juſtled him as he came out from the Opera, but before he would proceed, he begged his Lordſhip that he would not deny him the Honour of making him his Second. The *Engliſh* Lord, to avoid being drawn into a very fooliſh Affair, told him that he was under Engagements for his two next Duels to a Couple of particular Friends. Upon which the Gentleman immediately withdrew, hoping his Lordſhip would not take it ill, if he medled no farther in an Affair from whence he himſelf was to receive no Advantage.

The beating down this falſe Notion of Honour, in ſo vain and lively a People as thoſe of *France* is deſervedly looked upon as one of the moſt glorious Parts of their preſent King's Reign. It is pity but the Puniſhment of theſe miſchievous Notions ſhould have in it ſome particular Circumſtances of Shame and Infamy, that thoſe who are Slaves to them may ſee that inſtead of advancing their Reputations they lead them to Ignominy and Diſhonour.

Death is not ſufficient to deter Men, who make it their Glory to deſpiſe it, but if every one that fought a Duel were to ſtand in the Pillory it would quickly leſſen the Number of thoſe imaginary Men of Honour, and put an end to ſo abſurd a Practice.

When Honour is a Support to virtuous Principles, and runs parallel with the Laws of God and our Country, it cannot be too much cheriſhed and encouraged. But when the Dictates of Honour are contrary to thoſe of Religion and Equity, they are the greateſt Depravations of human Nature, by giving wrong Ambitions and falſe Ideas of what is good and laudable, and ſhould therefore be exploded by all Governments, and driven out as the Bane and Plague of Human Society.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of May, are to be ſold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-Houſe, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, the Corner of Beanfort-Buildings; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Round in [illegible] change Ally, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-[illegible] where alſo may be had thoſe for the Months of [illegible] and April.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By her Majeſties Company of Comedi[ans]

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, on Tu[esday] next, being the 26th day of June, will be Reviv'd a C[omedy] (not acted theſe Six Years) Call'd the Governor of Barcelona, [or] Spaniſh Wives. The Part of the Governor to be perform'd by [Mr.] Johnſon, Count Camillus Mr. Mills, Col. Peregrine Mr. Booth, [Mar]quis of Moncada Mr. Norris, Fryar Andrew Mr. Bullock, [Don] Weſt Mr. Pack, Tiptup Mrs. Bradſhaw, Elenora Mrs. Knight, [Vio]la Mrs. Powel.

This Play is ſold by Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over [against] Catherine ſtreet in the Strand.

To all that uſe Chaiſes.

WHereas Her Majeſty has been Graciouſly pl[eased] lately to grant her Letters Patents to Henry Mill, Ge[nt.] the ſole Uſe and Benefit of Making and Vending certain Steel [Springs] by him Invented for the Eaſe of Perſons Riding in Chaiſes, &c. [Who] are to advertiſe, that the ſame do effectually perform the End [for] by preventing all Jolts over Kennels or Rugged Ways; and [are] diſpos'd of at the 3 Golden Chairs the Corner of the Piazza, [Co]vent-Garden, as likewiſe at the Coach-Makers in London and We[ſtmin]ſter at 40s per Pair, which Expence is abundantly made up, by [the] Chaiſes to laſt much longer. The Springs will be no further [in] Horſe being but 14 Pound Weight, and tho' ſo Light and cheap, [will] be made ſo ſtrong of many Years without Repair. Attendance is given [from] 10 to 12 every Morning.

To be Sold, at a lower Rate than ordinary, [at] Queen's Head, joining to the Church Gate in Bedford ſtreet, [Co]vent-Garden, all Sorts of Druggets, Hair and Worſted Camlets, [Ba]roſs, Durops, Shagreens, Shalloons, Durants, Padua Sergea, Shags, [Ra]niſins, Calamancoes, and all other Goods fit for Mens Apparel. [The] Perſons who now keep the Shop deſigning to leave off the Trade, [and] the Houſe and Shop to be at Lady Michaelmas next.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

A Diſcourſe concerning the Being and Attri[butes] of God, the Obligations of Natural Religion, and the Truth [and] tainty of the Chriſtian Revelation. In Anſwer to Mr. Hob[bes], [Spi]noza, the Author of the Oracles of Reaſon, and other [Deiſts]. Natural and Revealed Religion. Being ſixteen Sermons Pre[ached] the Cathedral-Church of St. Paul, in the Years 1704, and [1705]. At the Lecture Founded by the Honourable Robert Boyle, [Eſq.] By Samuel Clarke, D. D. Rector of St. James's Weſtminſter, [and] Chaplain in Ordinary to her Majeſty. The third Edition, Corrected. Printed for James Knapton, at the Crown in St. Paul's Church-Yard. Price 6 s.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

A very Neat and Correct Edition of the Works of Mr. Francis Beaumont and Mr. John Fletcher. In Seven Volumes. Adorn'd with Cuts. With ſome Account of the Life and Writings of the Authors. Printed for J. Tonſon, at Shakeſpear's Head, [over] againſt Catherine ſtreet in the Strand.

The Retir'd Gardner. Vol. I. Being a Tranſlation of Le Jardinier Solitaire, or, Dialogues between a Gentleman and a Gard'ner: Containing the Methods of Making, Ordering and improving a Fruit and Kitchin-Garden with many new Experiments, from the Second Edition Printed at Paris; together with the beſt Way of planting and Cultivating Flowers, Plants, Shrubs and Flowering Shrubs, neceſſary for the Adorning of Gardens, &c. Vol. II. containing the Manner of Planting and Cultivating all ſorts of Fruit-Trees, Plants, Shrubs, and Under Shrubs, Neceſſary for the Adorning of Gardens; In which is Explain'd, the Art of Making and Diſpoſing of Parterres, Arbours of Greens, Wood-Works, Arches, Cabinets, and other Pieces and Compartments uſually found in the moſt Beautiful Gardens of Country Seats. The whole enrich'd with Variety of Figures, being a Tranſlation from the Sieur Louis Liger. To the Volume is added, a Deſcription and Plan of Count Tallard's Garden at Nottingham. The whole Reviſ'd, with ſeveral Alterations and Additions, which render it proper for our Engliſh Culture. By George London, and Henry Wiſe. Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over againſt Catherine-Street in the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in, as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.